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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/690,055	10/16/2000	William Russell Brisiel	1411(SURA)	2104

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EXAMINER

RHODE JR, ROBERT E

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3625

DATE MAILED: 08/12/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application N .

09/690,055

Applicant(s)

BRISIEL ET AL.

Examiner

Rob Rhode

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 16 October 2000 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## DETAILED ACTION

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 2, 4 – 7, 9 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Barnes (US 5,970,475) in view of Rosenberg (US 6,970,475).

Regarding claim 1 and related claim 6, the combination of Barnes and Rosenberg teach a method and system of storing, searching and purchasing a wide variety of items from an intranet based electronic stockroom and catalog (ESAC) comprising the steps of: where Barnes teaches housing the ESAC in a server that operates on a secure company intranet wherein the ESAC can be accessed by authorized employees at one or more terminals (see at least Col 7, lines 48 – 59 and Figure 2); storing vendor catalog information in the ESAC (see at least Col 9, lines 25 – 29 and Figures 4 and 14); allowing multiple vendors to download their catalog information to the ESAC for initial loading of their catalogs or updating of their catalogs (see at least Figures 2 – 4 and 14; providing search capabilities for simultaneous searching, by authorized employees, of the multiple vendor catalogs and items that are available on-site (see at least Col 8, lines 36 – 37); and integrating ESAC functions with other company electronic files so that budgeting, accounting and authorization limitations are implemented in the

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purchasing process and tracking of purchases is possible (see at least Col 8, lines 28 – 57, Col 9, lines 5 - 11 and Figures 3 and 5). Regarding claim 2 and related claim 7, Barnes teaches a method and system wherein, the step of allowing comprises permitting the vendors to download their catalog information via the Internet to the ESAC and the catalog information includes text and image information (see at least Col 23, lines 53 – 59) and regarding claim 4 and related claim 9, Barnes teaches a method and system wherein, the step of integrating comprises associating budgeting, accounting and authorization information with each employee and/or group of employees and automatically updating this information upon purchases and/or issues that are made (see at least Col 8, lines 30 – 47, Col 6, lines 61 – 65 and Figures 11 – 13). Additionally and regarding claim 5 and related claim 10, Barnes teaches a method and system wherein, the step of integrating comprises associating an order for an item with an employee placing the order and notifying the employee when the item is received (see at least Col 8, lines 36 – 39, Col 25, lines 54 – 59 and Figures 11 and 25).

However, Barnes does not specifically disclose and teach a method and system for storing on-site inventory information in the ESAC.

On the other hand, Rosenberg teaches a method and system for storing on-site inventory information in the ESAC (see at least Abstract).

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It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have provided the method and system of Barnes with the method and system of Rosenberg to have enabled storing, searching and purchasing a wide variety of items from an intranet based electronic stockroom and catalog (ESAC) comprising the steps of: housing the ESAC in a server that operates on a secure company intranet wherein the ESAC can be accessed by authorized employees at one or more terminals; storing on-site inventory information and vendor catalog information in the ESAC; allowing multiple vendors to download their catalog information to the ESAC for initial loading of their catalogs or updating of their catalogs; providing search capabilities for simultaneous searching, by authorized employees, of the multiple vendor catalogs and items that are available on-site; and integrating ESAC functions with other company electronic files so that budgeting, accounting and authorization limitations are implemented in the purchasing process and tracking of purchases is possible – in order to provide the capabilities for company approved buyers to quickly purchase required items. In this manner, the company can reduce both time and paperwork associated with purchasing non-production items, which will save money and thereby increase profits.

**Claims 3 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Barnes and Rosenberg as applied to claims 1 and 6 above, and further in view of Johnson (US 6,023,683).**

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The combination of the Barnes and Rosenberg substantially disclose and teach the applicant's invention.

However, the combination of Barnes and Rosenberg does not specifically disclose and teach a method and system wherein, the step of providing search capabilities comprises providing keyword, part number, manufacturer or other descriptor search mechanisms.

On the other hand and regarding Claim 3 and related claim 8, Johnson teaches a method and system wherein, the step of providing search capabilities comprises providing keyword, part number, manufacturer or other descriptor search mechanisms (see at least Abstract).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have provided the combination of Barnes and Rosenberg with the method and system of Johnson to have enabled wherein, the step of providing search capabilities comprises providing keyword, part number, manufacturer or other descriptor search mechanisms – in order to provide an easy to use system in locating desired items. In this regard, the user satisfaction will be increased, which will ensure long-term use of the system as well providing evidence and support of the business case justifying the investment.

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### Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The prior art is Wiecha (US 5,870,717), which addresses online ordering from a catalog.

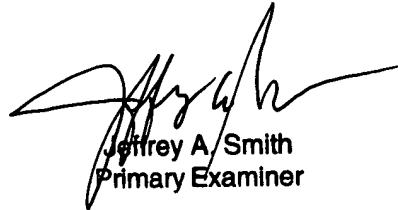
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Rob Rhode whose telephone number is 703.305.8230. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:30am - 4:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wynn Coggins can be reached on 703.308.1344. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703.305.7658 for regular communications and 703.308.3687 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703.306.1113.

RER

July 22, 2003



Jeffrey A. Smith  
Primary Examiner